6 March 1981

The Lord Avebury
Parliamentary Human Rights Group
House of Commons
London SW1

Dear Lord Avebury,

I am thankful to you for your very prompt and perceptive response to my earlier letter. I am deeply impressed by the keen interest you have shown in this subject and the timely action you have taken to do whatever can be done from outside to influence the course of events in Turkey for the future and to protect the human rights of leading political figures. I assure you that I and my colleagues are deeply impressed by your positive response.

I am sending you the text of the charges which have been levelled against Professor Dr Necmettin Erbakan. This text is in Turkish, but an English translation is in preparation and will be forwarded to you as soon as it is ready. The information we have received from very reliable sources confirms the following:

1) There are tens of thousands of persons in different military and other Turkish prisons, arrested after the military takeover in September 1980. These include political detainees as well as those who have been detained in view of their suspected involvement in violence. All such persons, including very young persons, are grouped together, which in itself could cast wrong influences on immature youth.

2) There is reasonable evidence that in some of these prisons different instruments of persecution are being employed including harassment, physical punishments, keeping the inmates awake for several days and nights continuously, etc. Even the Turkish President has admitted in response to the questions raised by a delegation of European Parliamentarians that some excesses have been committed by the prison authorities (Daily News, Istanbul, 25 February 1981, copy enclosed).

3) There is also evidence that these inmates of prisons and military camps are being subjected to crude political indoctrination; they are forced to chant slogans in favour of secularisation and Kamalism and are also compelled to read from a book which spells out the principles of Kamalism.

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